

## 2009 Current Fiscal Year Report: Federal Advisory Committee for the Expert Review of Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

### 2. Fiscal Year

2009

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Federal Advisory Committee for the Expert Review of Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3

### 3b. GSA

### Committee No.

31918

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

03/08/2007

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

03/08/2009

### 7. Expected Term Date

05/27/2009

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

Charter

### 8c. Actual Term Date

10/01/2008

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Enacted

### 11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

Agency

### 13. Effective Date

03/08/2007

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

Other Committee

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

### 17a. Open Meetings and Dates 0 17b. Closed Meetings and Dates 0 17c. Partially Closed Meetings and Dates 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total Meetings and Dates 0

No Meetings

### Current FY Next FY

### 18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

### 18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

### 18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff

\$0.00 \$0.00

### 18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants

\$0.00 \$0.00

### 18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

### 18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

### 18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff

\$0.00 \$0.00

### 18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants

\$0.00 \$0.00

<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

CERSAP provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on the conduct of the study titled The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity, being conducted as part of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program. CERSAP provides advice on the specific issues to be addressed, appropriate technical approaches, the nature of information relevant to decision makers, the content of the final report, compliance with the Information Quality Act, and other matters important to the successful achievement of the study objectives. CERSAP generates a list of comments and suggestions to increase the merit of SAP 4.3. After SAP 4.3's authors have responded to those comments, CERSAP will review those responses to ensure that their review comments have been adequately considered and addressed. The duties of the CERSAP are solely advisory in nature.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

As required by the OMB's Information Quality Act Guidelines and the USDA's Peer Review Implementation Guidelines, the selection of CERSAP members was based upon their demonstrated expertise in the ecosystems and ecosystem services related to agriculture, land resources, water resources, and biodiversity, which comprise SAP 4.3. Advertising for membership was conducted widely, including an announcement in the Federal Register and through USDA and report websites. All applicants to the CERSAP were appointed.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

Estimated Number of Meetings per Year - 1 Estimated Total Meetings - 2

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

Through the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP), chaired by the U.S. Department of Commerce, twenty-one national peer-reviewed Synthesis and Assessment Products (SAPs) will be completed to assess global climate change, as required within the 1990 Global Change Research Act (GCRA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the lead Government agency for a SAP entitled The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity, with the USDA Global Change Program Office coordinating the assessment. The GCRA requires that an assessment of the impacts of climate change be conducted every four years. Each SAP is

designated under OMB's Information Quality Act Guidelines as a Highly Influential Scientific Assessment. Among the requirements for the production of this report is that it undergo review by an independent body of subject area experts. The report review constitutes de facto advice to the Department because the reviewers will make a recommendation to the Government regarding the report's acceptance. As such, it was necessary to form this expert review panel through a committee formed under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

N/A

**21. Remarks**

By charter, the Committee for the Expert Review of Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3 (CERSAP) expired upon final publication of the report. The report was published on May 27, 2008. Therefore, the CERSAP expired at that time. No renewal will be sought.

**Designated Federal Officer**

Margaret Walsh Ecologist

**Narrative Description**

CERSAP was established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to support the USDA in its participation in the interagency U.S. Climate Change Science Program, specifically in implementation of Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3 (SAP 4.3), The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity. The Secretary of Agriculture determined that CERSAP is in the public interest and will support USDA in performing its duties and responsibilities.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements



Other



### Outcome Comments

NA

### What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None



Unable to Determine



Under \$100,000



\$100,000 - \$500,000



\$500,001 - \$1,000,000



\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000



\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000



Over \$10,000,000



Cost Savings Other



### Cost Savings Comments

NA

### What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

1

### Number of Recommendations Comments

Committee made comments on individual aspects of SAP 4-3 to the report's authors.

Those comments numbered in the hundreds. They advised regarding the disposition of the end report.

### What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

100%

### % of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

All comments generated by CERSAP were considered by SAP 4.3's author team. Those identified as improvements to the report that were implemented. An explanation was given as to non-implementation when it was not possible to do so, and was approved by the CERSAP.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

All comments generated by CERSAP were considered by SAP 4.3's author team. Improvements to the report were incorporated. Explanation was given in all other cases, with CERSAP approval.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

The committee received a full listing of their comments and all detailed responses made to the report.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

NA

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### **Access Comments**

DFO Contact Info is given in all Federal Register notices and on all applicable websites. Agency Website: [http://www.usda.gov/oce/global\\_change/index.htm](http://www.usda.gov/oce/global_change/index.htm) Report Website: <http://www.sap43.ucar.edu/> Publication of SAP 4.3 is anticipated both online and in print following CCSP and NSTC clearance processes.